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UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Attorney Docket No. 500.31108CC4 First Named Inventor or Application Identifier A. TANAKA et al. Express Mail Label No.	
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APPLICATION ELEMENTS

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.

1. Fee: 1,282.00

Please charge any shortages in the fees or credit any over-payments therof to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, Deposit Account No. 01-2135.

2. Specification Total Pages 34 []3. Drawing(s) (35 USC 113) [Total Sheets 7 []]4. Oath or Declaration Total Pages 2 []

- a. Newly executed (original or copy)
- b. Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d))
(for continuation/divisional with Box 17 completed)
[Note Box 5 below]

i. **DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)**
Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 CFR 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).

5. Incorporation By Reference (useable if Box 4b is checked)
The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by reference therein.

ADDRESS TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box Patent Application
Washington, DC 20231

- 6. Microfiche Computer Program (Appendix)
- 7. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission
(if applicable, all necessary)
 - a. Computer Readable Copy
 - b. Paper Copy (identical to computer copy)
 - c. Statement verifying identity of above copies

ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

- 8. Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))
- 9. 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement Power of Attorney
(when there is an assignee)
- 10. English Translation Document (if applicable)
- 11. Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 Copies of IDS Citations
- 12. Preliminary Amendment
- 13. Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503)
(Should be specifically itemized)
- 14. Small Entity Statement filed in prior application, Statement(s) Status still proper and desired
- 15. Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)
(if foreign priority is claimed)
- 16. Other: Claim for Priority.....
.....
.....

17. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box and supply the requisite information:

 Continuation Divisional Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No: 08 / 895,886
18. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS Customer Number or Bar Code Label020457

(Insert Customer No. or Attach bar code label here)

11. SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

NAME	Carl J. Brundidge		
SIGNATURE			
DATE	September 29, 1998	REG. NO.	29,621

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: A. TANAKA et al.
Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned
Filed: Even Date Herewith
For: DATA RECONSTRUCTION METHOD AND SYSTEM
EMPLOYING THE SAME
Group: 2785 (Anticipated)
Examiner: H. Nguyen (Anticipated)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box Patent Application
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

September 29, 1998

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified Rule 53(b) continuation application submitted herewith as follows.

The additional claim fee of \$492.00 due in connection with the filing of this preliminary amendment is included in the check attached to the accompanying utility patent application transmittal form.

IN THE TITLE

Please change the title to --DATA RECONSTRUCTION METHOD AND SYSTEM WHEREIN TIMING OF DATA RECONSTRUCTION IS CONTROLLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH CONDITIONS WHEN A FAILURE OCCURS--.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, before line 1, insert the following new section:

--CROSS-REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This is a continuation of application Serial No. 08/895,886 filed on July 17, 1997, which is a continuation of application Serial No. 08/534,841 filed on September 27, 1995, which is a continuation of application Serial No. 07/859,850 filed on March 30, 1992, now U.S. Patent No. 5,495,572.--;

lines 9-11, delete in their entirety insert --in parallel is disclosed in Japanese Kokai 1-250128 corresponding to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 07/118,785 filed on November 6, 1987, now U.S. Patent No. 4,870,643, and Japanese Kokai 2-135555.--;

line 15, delete "striped" insert --divided--, delete "unit, byte unit" insert --units, byte units--;

line 16, delete "unit," insert --units,--;

line 21, delete "striped up" insert --divided--.

Page 3, line 1, delete "the" (second occurrence);
line 2, delete in its entirety insert --code and error check code (ECC) methods.--;
line 10, delete "inspite" insert --in spite--.

Page 4, line 15, delete "comprising:" insert --including--;
line 16, delete "striping" insert --dividing--;
line 17, delete "unit, bite unit" insert --units, byte units--;

line 18, delete "unit" insert --units--, delete
"striped" insert --divided--;
line 20, delete "striped" insert --divided--;
line 23, delete "I/O" insert --an I/O operation--.

Page 5, line 15, delete "processing";
line 16, delete in its entirety insert --amount of
the data reconstruction within a unit time.--;
line 27, delete "has a room for" insert --is less
than--.

Page 6, line 6, delete "room in the" insert --remaining--;
line 10, delete "a room in the" insert --some
remaining--;
line 12, delete "accumulating totals of";
line 13, delete "which was";
line 18, delete "the" insert --a--;
line 19, delete "the" (first occurrence), after
"night" insert a comma;
line 22, delete "the" (third occurrence) insert
--a--;
line 26, after "reconstruction" insert --within a
unit time,--.

Page 8, line 11, delete the second comma;
line 12, delete "the";
line 21, delete "room" insert --remaining
redundancy--.

Page 9, line 1, delete "room" insert --remaining
redundancy--;

line 12, delete "it can proceed to the" insert
--a---;

line 13, after "processing" insert --can be
performed--;

line 19, delete "state." insert --state (Step
90).--;

line 21, delete "Steps" insert --steps--;

line 23, delete "the description will be given to";

line 25, delete "of" insert --will be described with
reference to--;

line 28, delete "I/O" insert --an I/O operation--.

Page 10, line 2, delete "the" (second occurrence) insert
--a---;

line 3, delete "is occurring" insert --has
occurred--;

line 8, delete "reconstruction," insert
--reconstruction within a unit time,--;

line 10, delete "that" insert --whether--;

line 12, after "range" insert a comma;

line 13, delete "the";

line 14, delete "getting" insert --which are
entering--;

line 15, delete "into", delete "to monitor" insert
--and monitors--;

line 18, delete "on referring" insert --below with
respect--;

line 23, delete "with" insert --based on--;

line 27, delete "write" insert --writing--.

Page 11, line 5, delete "158 to" insert --158, 160, 162, 164,
166, and--;

line 7, delete "striped" insert --divided--, delete
"the six" insert --six data--, delete "as the";

line 8, delete "data discs";

line 10, delete "the";

line 11, delete "striped six" insert --divided--,
delete "discs 158 to" insert --six data discs 158,
160, 162, 164, 166, and--;

line 14, delete "data 158 to 168." insert --divided
data stored in the six data discs 158, 160, 162,
164, 166, and 168.--;

line 15, delete "which the memory has" insert --of
the memory--;

line 17, delete "the" (second occurrence);

line 18, delete in its entirety insert --more than a
certain number of the discs break down,--;

line 19, delete "certain number,";

line 20, delete "the";

line 21, delete "even", delete "data" insert
--discs--;

line 22, delete "i.e., the" insert --when--;

line 24, delete "the" (first occurrence) insert
--an--, delete "stands up to" insert --can
compensate for--;

line 26, delete "the" (first occurrence);

line 27, after "redundancy" insert a comma;
line 28, delete "Code." insert --code--.

Page 12, line 1, delete "Code" insert --code--;
line 4, delete "units" insert --discs--;
line 6, delete "the" insert --a--, delete "unit,"
insert --disc,--;
line 7, delete "unit" insert --disc--;
line 8, delete "those discs" insert --spare storage
discs--;
line 10, delete "description will now be given to
the";
line 11, delete "fault." insert --fault will now be
described with reference to Fig. 3.--;
line 16, delete "faulty data" insert --failure--;
line 22, delete "unit";
line 24, delete "to inform" insert --and informs--.

Page 13, line 5, delete "to" insert --in--;
line 8, delete "to" insert --in--;
line 11, delete "to" insert --in--;
line 13, delete "to" insert --in--;
line 15, delete "to" insert --in--, delete
"address." insert --the sector or address of the
failure.--;
line 19, delete "Step." insert --step.--;
line 20, delete "Step," insert --step,--;
line 26, delete "on referring" insert --below with
reference--.

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Page 14, line 3, delete "state." insert --state (Step
112).--;
line 5, delete "then, the above Steps" insert --and
the above steps--;
line 6, delete "will be" insert --are--;
line 7, delete "Even if" insert --When--;
line 10, delete "the" (second occurrence) insert
--a--;
line 15, delete "of" insert --for--, delete "in"
insert --is--;
line 18, delete "the" (second occurrence) insert
--a--;
line 22, delete "have" insert --be in--;
line 23, delete in its entirety insert --units,
sector units, word units, or any other units.--;
line 24, delete "the description will be given to";
line 25, delete "on referring" insert --will be
described with reference--;
line 27, delete "of" (second occurrence) insert
--for--;
line 28, delete "is not" insert --has not been--.
Page 15, line 2, delete "the" (first occurrence) insert
--a--;
line 3, after "than" insert --or equal to--;
line 5, delete "is a room" insert --some
remaining--;
line 6, delete "in the";

line 7, after "preference" insert a comma;
line 13, delete "the redundancy has no room," insert
--there is no remaining redundancy,--;
line 17, delete "with" insert --on the basis of--;
line 19, delete "for" insert --in--;
line 27, delete "the".

Page 16, line 7, delete "the" (first occurrence) insert
--indicate--;
line 8, delete "the" (first occurrence) insert
--indicate--;
line 10, delete "write of" insert --writing--;
line 11, delete "to" insert --which would
normally--;
line 14, delete "the" (first occurrence) insert
--indicate--;
line 18, delete "Code" insert --code--, delete "the
multiplex dissipation" insert --errors in--;
line 19, delete "with", delete "have" insert --be--;
line 20, delete "integral" insert --integer--;
line 24, after "the" (second occurrence) insert
--last--;
line 25, after "constructed" insert a comma, delete
"at the last time,";
line 26, delete "performed" insert --continued--;
line 27, after "the" (second occurrence) insert
--last--;
line 28, delete "at the last time".

Page 17, line 2, delete "154 and thus" insert --154, thus indicating that--;
line 4, delete "of" insert --at--;
line 9, delete "to" insert --in--;
line 10, delete "the" (second occurrence) insert --indicate--;
line 12, delete "will" insert --can--;
line 24, delete "for" insert --in a--;
line 25, delete "the" (first occurrence).

Page 18, line 2, delete "can be," insert --can,--;
line 3, after "discs," insert --be--;
line 4, delete "the description will be given to" insert --another example of--;
line 5, delete "on referring" insert --will be described with reference--;
line 7, delete "of" (second occurrence) insert --for--;
line 10, delete "the" insert --a--;
line 11, delete the second comma;
line 18, delete "there is a room";
line 19, delete "for", delete "reconstruction." insert --reconstruction can be deferred.--;
line 28, delete "difference".

Page 19, line 1, delete in its entirety insert --reconstruction time is--;
line 3, delete in its entirety insert --that the data reconstruction cannot be deferred.--;

line 12, delete "the" (second occurrence) insert
--a---;

line 14, delete "the description will be given to"
insert --another example of--;

line 15, delete "on referring" insert --will be
described with reference--;

line 18, after "is" insert --in--;

line 25, delete "the time zone," insert --in a time
zone having much processing of the normal access or
read/write,--;

line 28, after "that" insert --time is in a--,
delete "has" insert --having--.

Page 20, line 2, after "threshold," insert --is--;

line 3, delete "is";

line 4, delete "is", delete "for" insert --within--;

line 14, delete "embodiments" insert --examples--;

line 20, delete "the description will be given to"
insert --another example of--;

line 21, delete "on referring" insert --will be
described with reference--;

line 27, delete "it is not" insert --the time is not
in--.

Page 21, line 5, delete "it is" insert --the time is in--;

line 13, delete "it is" insert --the time is in--;

line 16, delete "exceptionally" insert
--preferentially--;

line 20, delete "the description will be given to"
insert --another example of--;
line 21, delete "on referring" insert --will be
described with reference--;
line 25, delete "accumulating totals of the data";
line 26, delete "reconstruction time" insert --time
taken to reconstruct the faulty data--.
Page 22, line 2, delete "accumulating";
line 3, delete "totals of the data reconstruction
time" insert --time taken to reconstruct the faulty
data--;
line 5, delete "the" (first occurrence) insert
--a--;
line 7, delete "the" insert --a--;
line 10, delete "the accumu-";
line 11, delete in its entirety;
line 12, delete "reconstruction." insert
--reconstruction can be deferred.--;
line 17, delete "and";
line 18, delete "is limitlessly" insert --may have
any magnitude--;
line 19, after "threshold," insert --and thus--;
line 21, after "of" (second occurrence) insert
--the--;
line 27, after "reconstruction" insert --within the
unit time--.

Page 23, line 3, after "reconstruction" insert --within the
unit time--;

line 6, delete "will" insert --can--;

line 8, delete "the" (first occurrence) insert
--a--, delete "given" insert --used--.

Page 24, line 1, delete "a room of the" insert --the
remaining--;

line 7, delete in its entirety insert --time taken
to reconstruct the faulty data--;

line 8, delete "sing time";

line 9, delete "the" insert --a--;

line 12, after "tion" insert --within the unit
time--.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-17 without prejudice or disclaimer
of the subject matter thereof.

Please add new claims 18-29 as follows:

--18. An apparatus for storing data comprising:

a plurality of storage units for storing a plurality
of data groups and error correcting data corresponding to each
of the data groups; and

a controller for performing processing of
reconstructing data stored in any of the storage units in
which a fault has occurred based on all other data of a

corresponding one of the data groups and corresponding error correcting data;

wherein the controller determines a degree of preference to be given to the processing of reconstructing data.

19. An apparatus for storing data according to claim 18, wherein the controller determines the degree of preference based on a predetermined limit time.

20. An apparatus for storing data according to claim 19, wherein the controller performs the processing of reconstructing data according to the degree of preference.

21. An apparatus for storing data comprising:
a plurality of storage units for storing a plurality of data groups and error correcting data corresponding to each of the data groups; and
a controller for performing processing of reconstructing data stored in any of the storage units in which a fault has occurred based on all other data of a corresponding one of the data groups and corresponding error correcting data, and processing of data read/write requests from a host;
wherein the controller determines whether to give preference to the processing of reconstructing data or to the processing of data read/write requests, and performs the

processing to which preference is given based on a predetermined limit time.

22. An apparatus for storing data comprising:
a plurality of storage units for storing a plurality of data groups and error correcting data corresponding to each of the data groups; and
a controller for performing processing of reconstructing data stored in any of the storage units in which a fault has occurred based on all other data of a corresponding one of the data groups and corresponding error correcting data, and processing of data read/write requests from a host;
wherein the controller controls a ratio of an amount of the processing of reconstructing data to an amount of the processing of data read/write requests, and performs a processing according to the ratio based on a predetermined limit time.

23. An apparatus for storing data according to claim 22, wherein the controller controls a ratio of an amount of the processing of reconstructing data per unit time to an amount of the processing of data read/write requests per unit time, and performs a processing according to the ratio based on a predetermined limit time.

24.

An apparatus for storing data comprising:
a plurality of storage units for storing a plurality
of data groups and error correcting data corresponding to each
of the data groups; and
a controller for performing processing of
reconstructing data stored in any of the storage units in
which a fault has occurred based on all other data of a
corresponding one of the data groups and corresponding error
correcting data, and processing of data read/write requests
from a host;

wherein the controller controls a ratio of an amount
of time for the processing of reconstructing data to an amount
of time for the processing of data read/write requests, and
performs a processing according to the ratio based on a
predetermined limit time.

25.

An apparatus for storing data comprising:
a plurality of storage units for storing a plurality
of data groups and error correcting data corresponding to each
of the data groups; and
a controller for performing processing of
reconstructing data stored in any of the storage units in
which a fault has occurred based on all other data of a
corresponding one of the data groups and corresponding error
correcting data, and processing of data read/write requests
from a host;

1025960 "CODEWORD"

wherein the controller controls an amount of time for the processing of reconstructing data based on a predetermined limit time.

26. An apparatus for storing data comprising:
a plurality of storage units for storing a plurality of data groups and error correcting data corresponding to each of the data groups; and

a controller for performing processing of reconstructing data stored in any of the storage units in which a fault has occurred based on all other data of a corresponding one of the data groups and corresponding error correcting data, and processing of data read/write requests from a host;

wherein the controller controls an amount of the processing of reconstructing data based on a predetermined limit time.

27. An apparatus for storing data comprising:
a plurality of storage units for storing a plurality of data groups and error correcting data corresponding to each of the data groups; and

a controller for performing processing of reconstructing data stored in any of the storage units in which a fault has occurred based on all other data of a corresponding one of the data groups and corresponding error

correcting data, and processing of data read/write requests from a host;

wherein the controller determines an amount of performing the processing of reconstructing data instead of the processing of data read/write requests such that the processing of reconstructing data is completed within a fixed time.

28. An apparatus for storing data comprising:

a plurality of storage units for storing a plurality of data groups and error correcting data corresponding to each of the data groups; and

a controller for performing processing of reconstructing data stored in any of the storage units in which a fault has occurred based on all other data of a corresponding one of the data groups and corresponding error correcting data, and processing of data read/write requests from a host;

wherein the controller performs the processing of reconstructing data in preference to the processing of data read/write requests such that the processing of reconstructing data is completed within a fixed time.

29. An apparatus for storing data comprising:

a plurality of storage units for storing a plurality of data groups and error correcting data corresponding to each of the data groups; and

a controller for performing processing of reconstructing data stored in any of the storage units in which a fault has occurred based on all other data of a corresponding one of the data groups and corresponding error correcting data, and processing of data read/write requests from a host;

wherein the controller performs the processing of reconstructing data instead of the processing of data read/write requests such that the processing of reconstructing data is completed within a fixed time.--

IN THE ABSTRACT

Line 2, delete the colon;
Line 3, delete "striped" insert --divided--;
Line 4, delete "discs" insert --units--;
Line 5, delete "striped" insert --divided--;
Line 6, delete "the";
Line 8, delete "the" insert --a--, delete "at fault;" insert
--which has failed;--;
Line 12, delete "the" (first occurrence) insert --a--;
Line 13, delete "out of" insert --from a--;
Line 14, delete "the" insert --a--, delete the comma, after
"and" insert --a--;
Line 15, delete in its entirety insert --processing, and the
selected processing is carried out, or the--;

Line 18, delete "processing amount" insert --amount of the data reconstruction processing within a unit time,--.

REMARKS

A new title has been provided, the abstract and the specification have been amended, claims 1-17 have been cancelled, and new claims 18-29 have been added. Claims 18-29 are pending, with claims 18, 21-22, and 24-29 being independent.

Submitted herewith is a claim for priority, acknowledgement of which is respectfully requested.

Submitted herewith is an Information Disclosure Statement, consideration of which is respectfully requested.

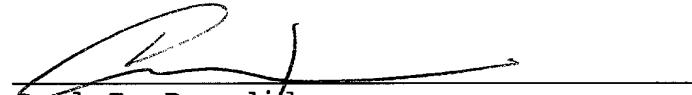
Submitted herewith are proposed corrections to Figs. 2 and 4-9. Upon approval of the proposed corrections and receipt of a Notice of Allowance, the drawings will be corrected in accordance with the procedure established therefor.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper to the deposit account of Antonelli,

Terry, Stout & Kraus, Deposit Account No. 01-2135
(500.31108CC4), and please credit any excess fees thereto.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP



Carl I. Brundidge
Registration No. 29,621

CIB/RSS
(703) 312-6600

DO NOT FILE THIS IN THE RECORDS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: A. TANAKA et al.
Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned
Filed: Even Date Herewith
For: DATA RECONSTRUCTION METHOD AND SYSTEM
EMPLOYING THE SAME
Group: 2785 (Anticipated)
Examiner: H. Nguyen (Anticipated)

LETTER TO THE OFFICIAL DRAFTSMAN

Box Patent Application
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

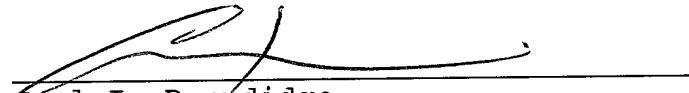
September 29, 1998

Sir:

Subject to the Examiner's approval, the applicants hereby propose to correct Figs. 2 and 4-9 of the drawings of the above-identified application in the manner indicated in red on the attached sheets.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

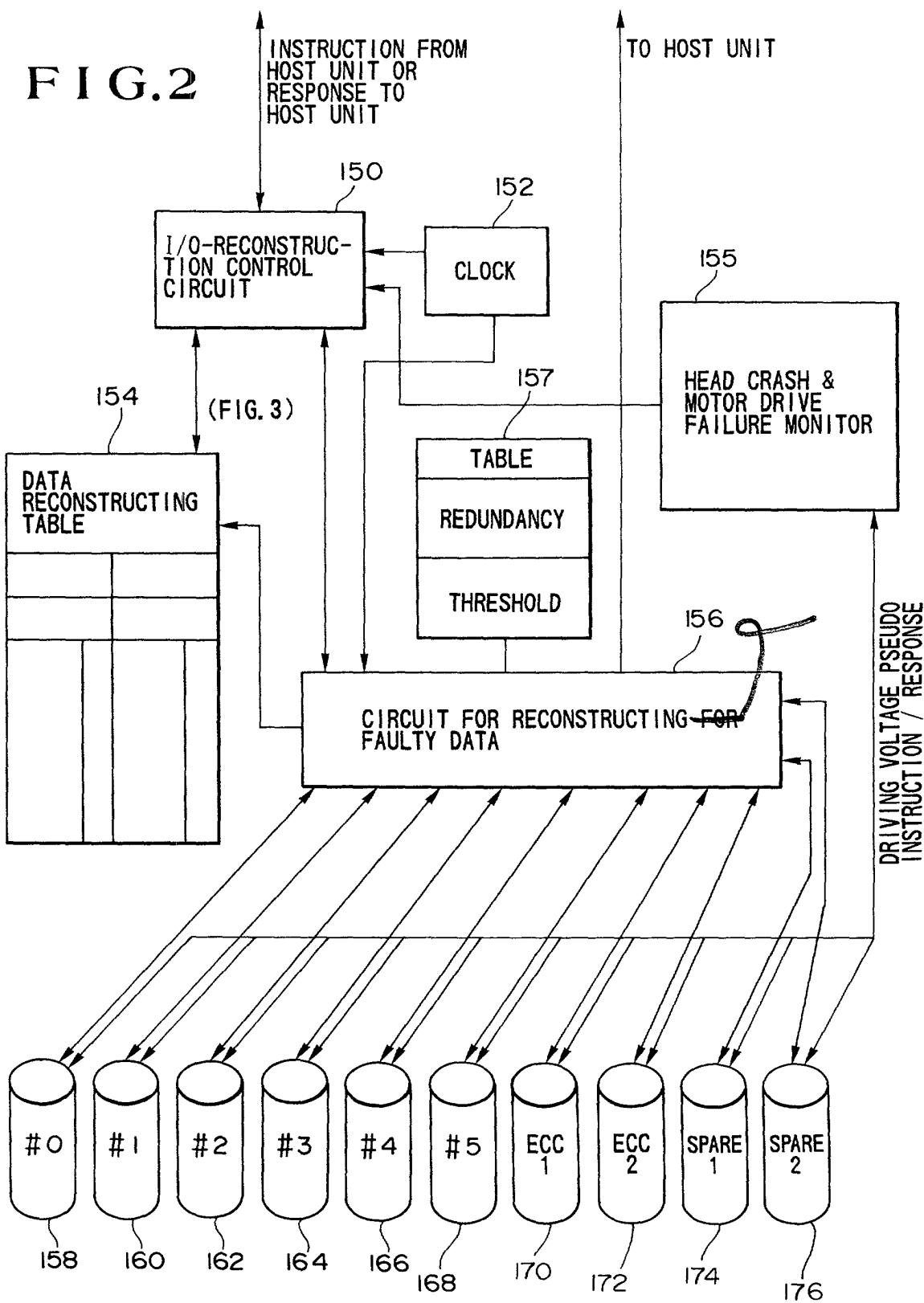


Carl I. Brundidge
Registration No. 29,621

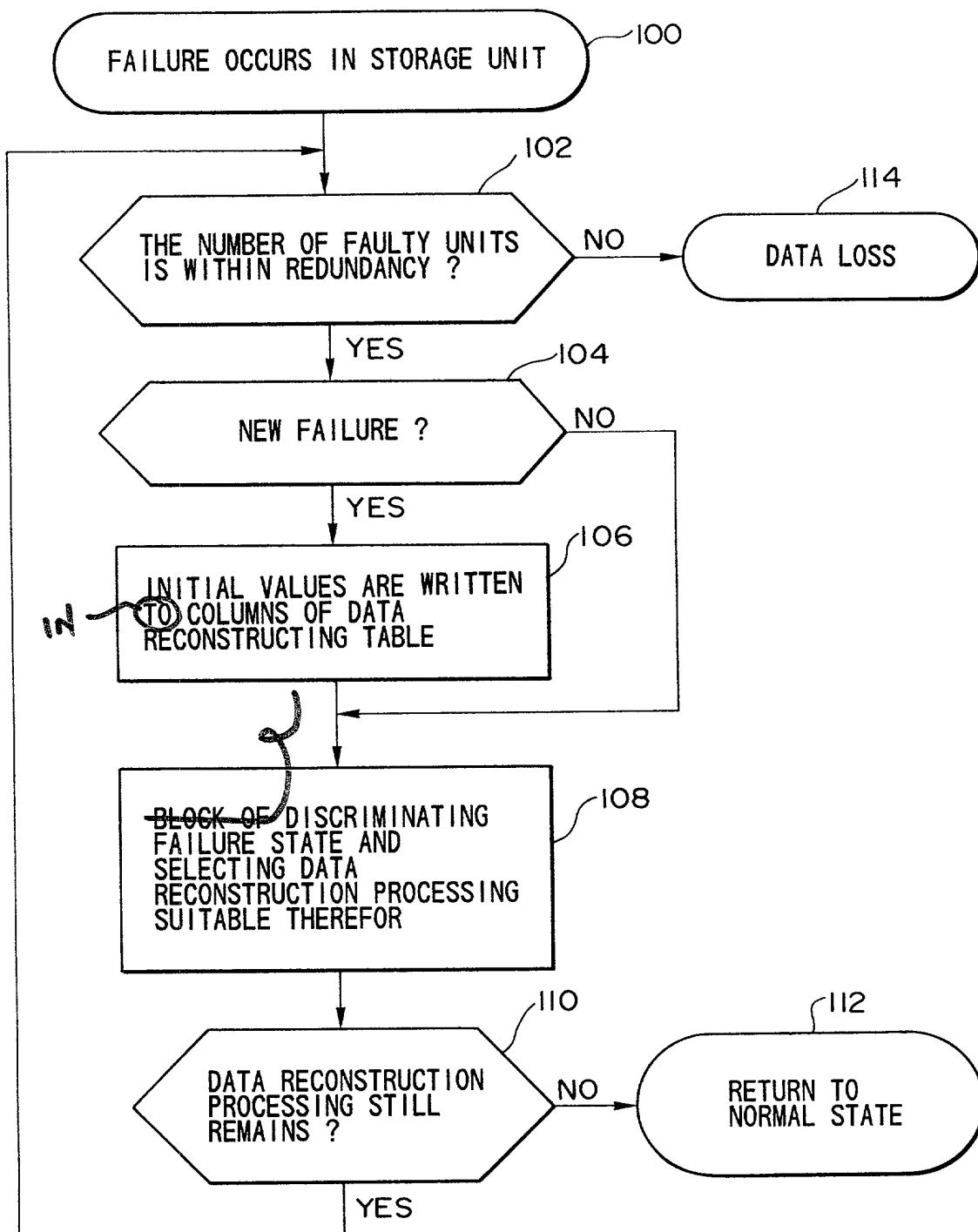
CIB/RSS
(703) 312-6600

Attachments

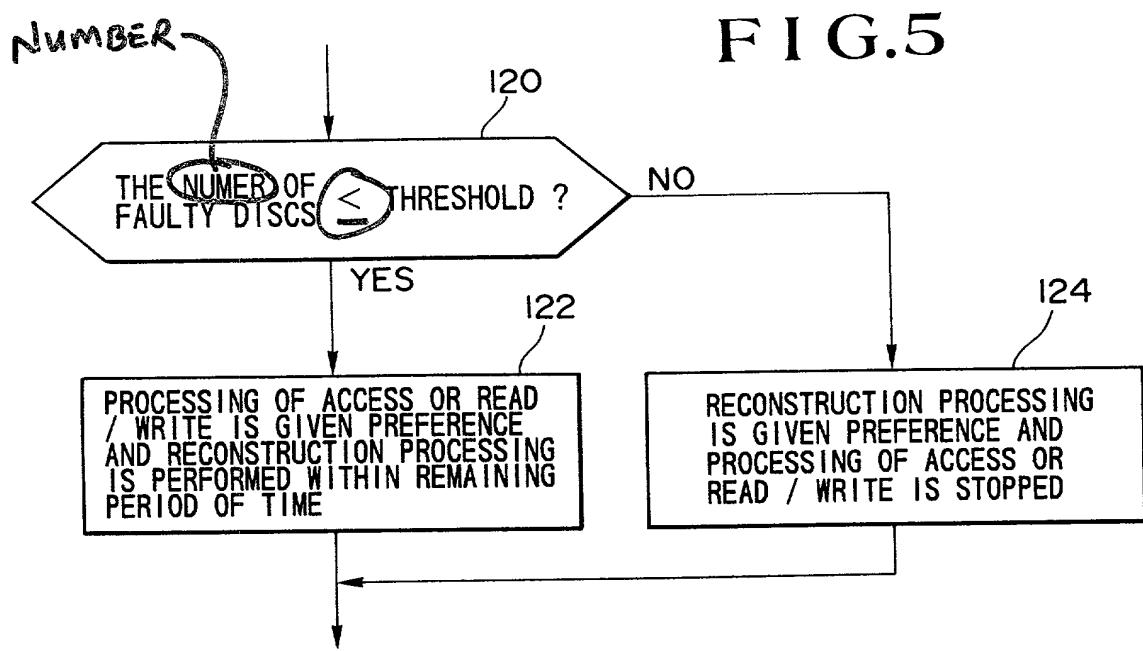
FIG.2



F I G.4



F I G.5



F I G.6

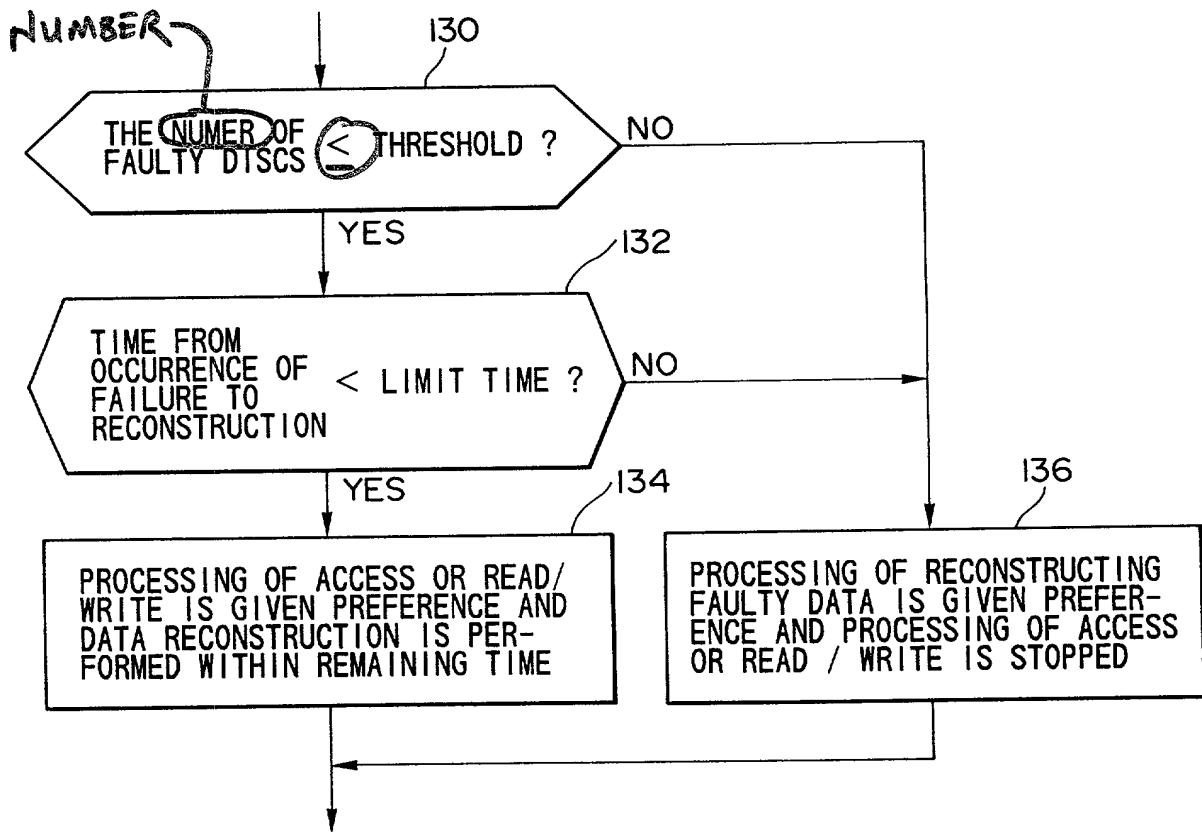
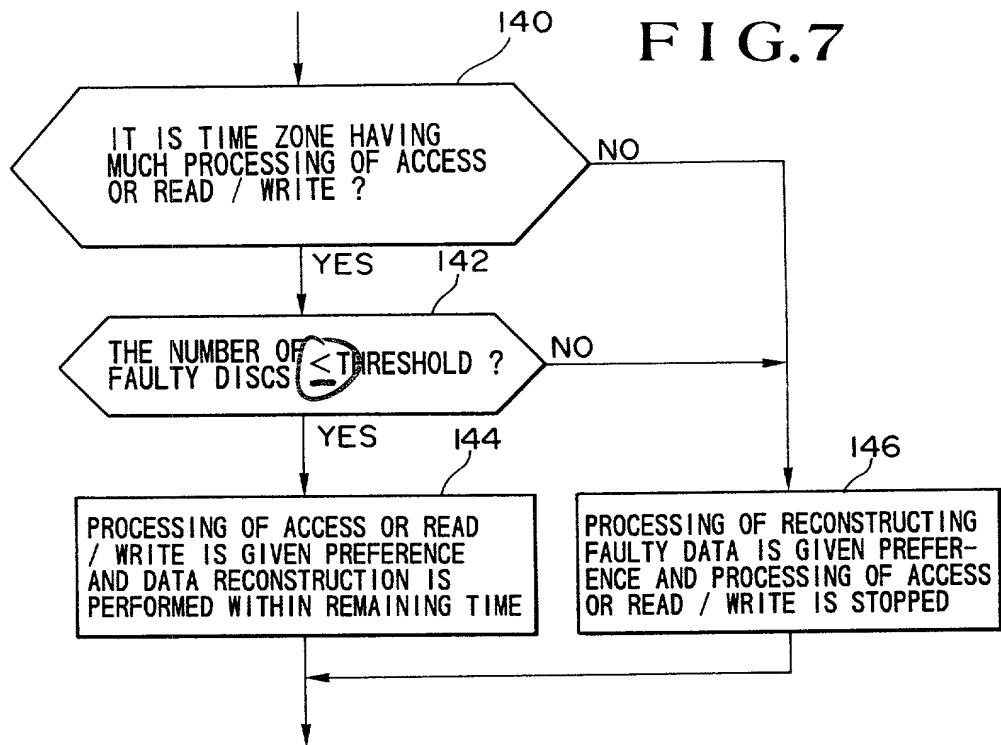


FIG.7



NUMBER
FIG.8

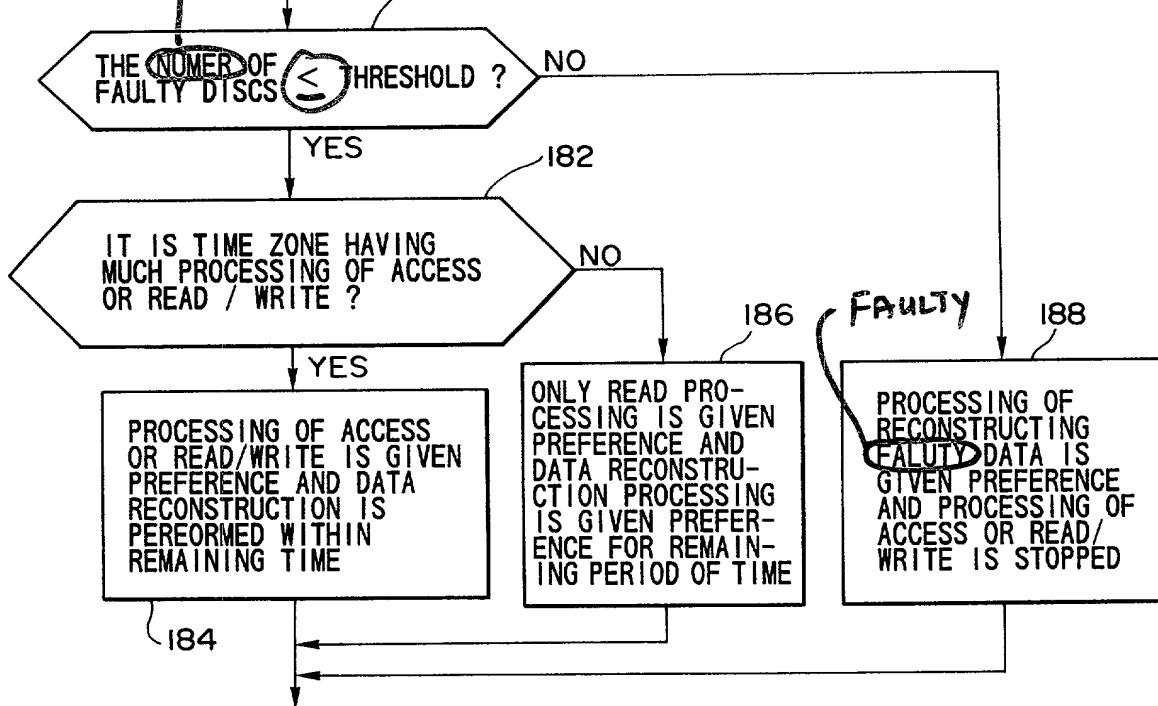
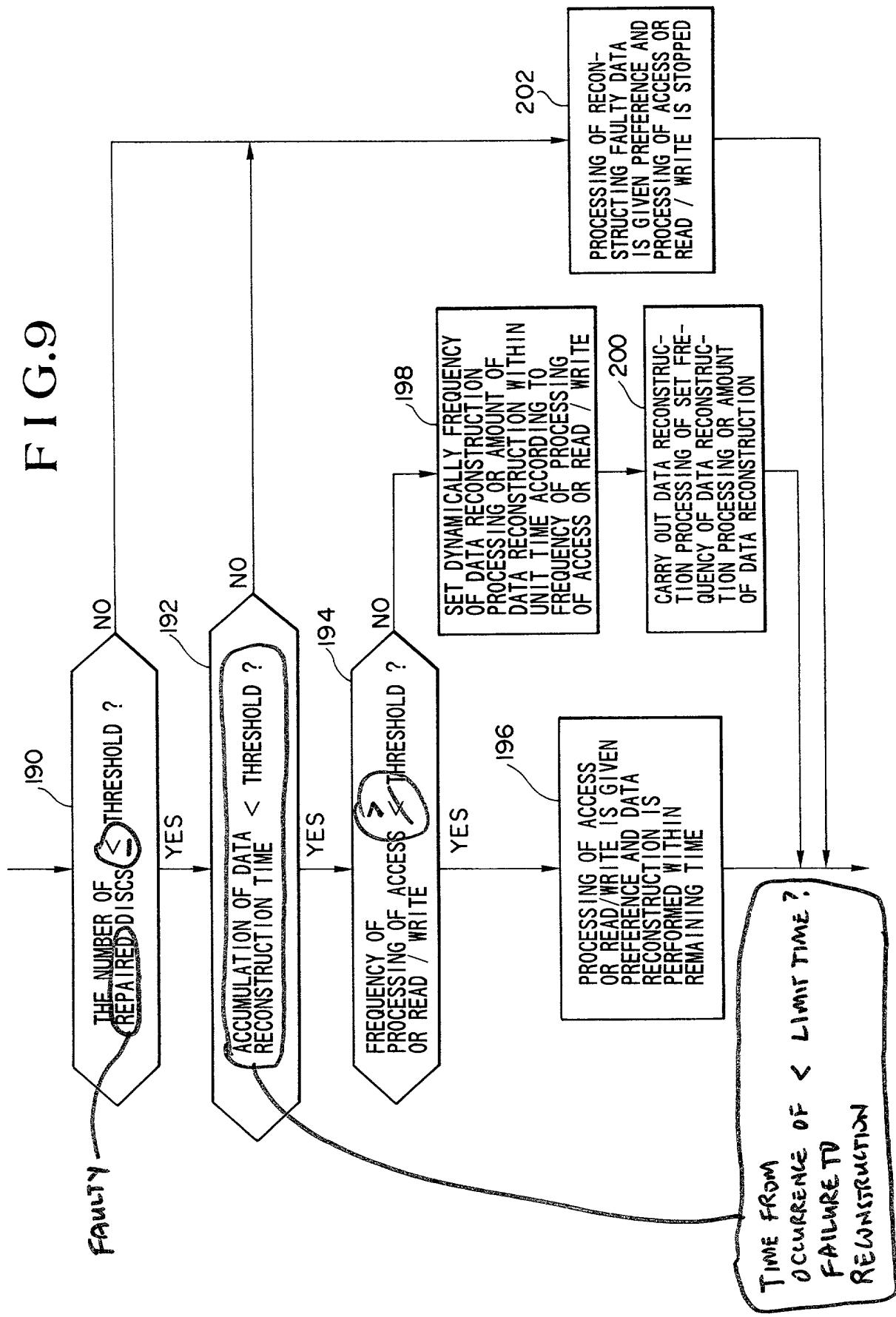


FIG. 9



DATA RECONSTRUCTION METHOD AND SYSTEM EMPLOYING THE SAME

1 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a memory for performing access or read/write in parallel with a plurality of independent storage units as a set, and
5 more particularly to a data reconstruction system and a method used therein which are available in occurrence of a failure.

The technology for controlling discs arranged in parallel is disclosed in JP-A-H1-250128 corresponds
10 to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 118,785 filed on November 6, 1987 and JP-A-H2-135555.

As for the technology for achieving the large capacity of a memory and the high speed transfer of data, there is known a method in which the data is
15 striped into a plurality of data of bit unit, byte unit or arbitrary unit, with a plurality of storage units as a set, to be stored in the respective storage units, and when the data is to be read out, the plurality of data is simultaneously read out from the respective storage units. Moreover, in this method, the data to be used
20 for a parity check is produced from the data striped up among the storage units to be stored in another storage unit. When the failure occurs in any of the storage units, the data stored in the remaining normal storage
25 units and the data for the parity check are used to

1 reconstruct the faulty data, thereby to improve the
reliability of the memory.

Further, there is known the technology in
which when the failure occurs in any of the storage
5 units, not only the data is reconstructed for the normal
read operation, but also the data stored in the storage
unit at fault is reconstructed to be stored in the
normal storage unit which is additionally provided.

With this technology, the reconstructed data is stored
10 in the spare storage unit and the data is read out from
the spare storage unit for the subsequent access,
whereby it is possible to improve the availability of
the memory.

The failure of a certain number of storage
15 units can be repaired by providing the parity data, and
the data can also be reconstructed by the provision of
the spare storage unit. However, for the operation of
repairing the failure, it is necessary to read out all
of the data stored in the normal storage units and the
20 data for the parity check, reconstruct the faulty data
and write the reconstructed data to the spare storage
unit. Therefore, during the repair of the failure, the
storage units are occupied so that the request to
process the normal access or read/write which is issued
25 from a host unit continues to wait. This results in the
degradation of the performance of the memory. As for
the error check method for reconstructing the faulty

1 data, there are known the parity data, the Reed-Solomon
Code and the error check code (ECC).

Although the redundancy is provided for the failure of a plurality of storage units, the failure
5 repair in the failure of one storage unit and that in the failure of a plurality of storage units are managed without taking the distinction therebetween into consideration. Therefore, putting emphasis on the repair of the failure, since the processing of the
10 normal access or read/write cannot be performed inspite of the failure of one storage unit, there arises a problem in that the efficiency of the processing of the normal access or read/write is reduced. On the other hand, putting emphasis on the normal access or
15 read/write operation, there arises a problem in that the time required for the repair of the failure is not secure during the failure of a plurality of storage units, and as a result, the possibility that the whole system may break down will be increased.

20 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is therefore an object of the present invention to minimize the reduction of the processing of the normal access or read/write in the failure, limit the time required for the repair of the failure within a
25 fixed period of time, and ensure the high reliability, with respect to a memory which has the redundancy for the failure of two or more storage units.

1 It is another object of the present invention
to provide a data reconstruction system which is capable
of selecting a suitable data reconstruction method in
correspondence to the various kinds of conditions
5 relating to the repair of the failure and carrying out
the most suitable data reconstruction processing.

It is still another object of the present
invention to provide a control system which is capable
of changing the procedure of data reconstruction
10 processing in correspondence to the change of redundancy
relating to the number of ECC discs included in a
plurality of storage units which are arranged in
parallel to one another.

The above objects of the present invention are
15 attained by the provision of a memory comprising: a
group of storage units for striping data into a
plurality of data of bit unit, bite unit or arbitrary
unit to store therein the striped data, the plurality of
independent storage units forming a set; discs for
20 storing therein ECC data corresponding to the striped
data; a spare storage unit for storing therein the
reconstructed data; an I/O-reconstruction control
circuit for receiving a command relating to I/O issued
from a host unit to execute processing in accordance
25 with the command or respond to the host unit; a timer
for giving the point of failure, an elapsed time during
the data reconstruction, a unit time and the like; a
data reconstructing table for the storage unit at fault;

1 and a faulty data reconstructing circuit for performing
discovery of the faulty data, data reconstruction and an
operation of writing data to a spare storage disc,
wherein when a failure occurs in any of the storage
5 units, the faulty data reconstructing circuit detects
the failure by an error check to inform the I/O-
reconstruction control circuit of the failure, and the
I/O-reconstruction control circuit discriminates a state
of the failure to select the preferred processing
10 suitable for the state of the failure out of the
processing of the normal access or read/write and the
data reconstruction processing, thereby to execute the
selected processing, or set the frequency of the
processing of the normal access or read/write and the
15 data reconstruction, or the ratio of the processing
amount.

When the failure occurs in the above memory,
the redundancy of the memory, the elapsed time during
the data reconstruction, and the state of the normal
20 access or read/write processing and the like are
discriminated, and the data reconstruction processing
(method) suitable therefor is selected. Therefore, it
is possible to prevent reduction of the performance of
the processing of the normal access or read/write and
25 ensure the high reliability of the memory. More
specifically, in the case where the number of storage
units at fault has a room for the redundancy of the
memory, there is selected the data reconstruction

1 processing (method) in which the processing of the
normal access or read/write is given preference, and the
faulty data is reconstructed within the remaining period
of time. Therefore, no load is put on the processing of
5 the normal access or read/write. On the other hand, in
the case where there is no room in the redundancy, since
the processing of reconstructing faulty data is given
preference, it is possible to ensure the reliability for
the failure of the memory. Moreover, in the case where
10 there is a room in the redundancy, since the data
reconstruction processing (method) is changed according
to the magnitude of the accumulating totals of time
which was taken to repair the failure with respect to
the storage units in which the failure occurred, it is
15 possible to prevent reduction of the performance of the
processing of the normal access or read/write and limit
the time required for the data reconstruction within a
fixed period of time. Moreover, the time zone, e.g.,
the night having less processing of the normal access or
20 read/write is selected so that the system can devote
itself to the data reconstruction. As a result, it is
possible to reduce the load of the memory in the time
zone having much processing of the normal access or
read/write. Moreover, since the frequency of the data
25 reconstruction processing, or the ratio of the amount of
data reconstruction is set according to the magnitude of
the frequency of the processing of the normal access or

1 read/write, it is possible to carry out the data
reconstruction processing effectively in a time aspect.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a flow chart of the processing of
5 reconstructing faulty data according to the present
invention;

Fig. 2 is a block diagram showing the
arrangement of a memory according to the present
invention;

10 Fig. 3 is a diagram showing the arrangement of
a data reconstructing table for a disc at fault of the
present invention;

Fig. 4 is a flow chart showing the processing
employed in the memory of Fig. 2;

15 Fig. 5 is a flow chart of a block of selecting
the data reconstruction processing in Fig. 4;

Fig. 6 is another flow chart of a block of
selecting the data reconstruction processing in Fig. 4;

20 Fig. 7 is still another flow chart of a block
of selecting the data reconstruction processing in Fig.
4;

Fig. 8 is yet another flow chart of a block of
selecting the data reconstruction processing in Fig. 4;
and

25 Fig. 9 is a further flow chart of a block of
selecting the data reconstruction processing in Fig. 4.

1 DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The description will hereinafter be given to a flow chart showing the processing of reconstructing faulty data of Fig. 1.

5 It is assumed that a failure occurs in a memory or a motor (Step 10). In this connection, this failure is detected by the check of an error check code or by the check of the deviation of a motor driving voltage from a predetermined range. First, it is judged
10 whether or not the failure thus occurred is repairable (Step 20). If not, then, the data reconstruction processing is completed. This results in the data loss (Step 30). If so, it is judged on the basis of the redundancy of the memory, the elapsed time of the data
15 reconstruction and the processing state of the processing of the normal access or read/write whether or not it is a state in which the system should devote itself to the data reconstruction (Step 40). If a request to process the normal processing such as access
20 or read/write is issued from a host unit under the condition in which there is a sufficient room and the urgency of the reconstruction is low, the data reconstruction processing is stopped and the normal processing such as access or read/write is given
25 preference. Then, the data reconstruction processing is performed within the remaining period of time, and the processing of access or read/write during the data reconstruction is cancelled or queued (Step 50).

1 Conversely, if there is no room and the urgency of the
reconstruction is high, the data reconstruction
processing is given preference, and all of the normal
processing such as access or read/write is cancelled or
5 queued (Step 60). Moreover, in the case of the
intermediate state in which there are some combinations
between the urgency of the data reconstruction and the
significance of the normal processing such as access or
read/write, the data reconstruction processing
10 corresponding to the individual conditions is previously
prepared in the form of programs. Then, when the
conditions are changed, it can proceed to the suitable
processing by replacing an old program with a new one
(Step 70). Next, when the data reconstruction
15 processing is completed or interrupted, it is checked
whether or not the data reconstruction processing still
remains (Step 80). After all of the data reconstruction
processing has been completed, the memory returns to the
normal state. If the data reconstruction processing
20 still remains, the flow returns to Step 20 and the above
Steps will be repeated until the data reconstruction is
completed.

Next, the description will be given to a block
diagram showing the arrangement of an embodiment of the
25 present invention of Fig. 2.

In Fig. 2, the reference numeral 150
designates an I/O-reconstruction control circuit which
receives a command relating to I/O issued from the host

1 unit to carry out the processing according to the
command or respond to the host unit. Further, when the
failure is occurring in any of the storage units, the
circuit 150 serves to select a suitable data reconstruc-
5 tion method on the basis of the number of discs during
the reconstruction, the time taken to reconstruct the
faulty data, the frequency of the data reconstruction,
or the amount of the data reconstruction, and the like.
There is connected to the individual storage units a
10 monitor 155 which monitors that after the power source
for driving the storage units is activated, the driving
voltage is in a predetermined range and feeds a pseudo-
instruction for reading out the data previously stored
in a predetermined location to the storage units getting
15 into the running state to monitor the responses sent
therefrom. The reference numeral 154 designates a data
reconstructing table for the storage unit at fault of
which details will be described on referring to Fig. 3.
The reference numeral 152 designates a clock or timer
20 for obtaining the point of failure by giving the time of
day and obtaining the elapsed time during the re-
construction and the unit time by a certain method.
Then, the data reconstruction method can be changed with
the time measured by the timer as one condition. The
25 reference numeral 156 designates a circuit for re-
constructing faulty data which performs the discovery of
the faulty data, the data reconstruction and the write
of the data to a spare storage disc. Moreover, the

1 circuit 156 reads out the data from all of the discs
except the disc at fault, reconstructs the faulty data
using the data thus read out, and transfers the
reconstructed data to the host unit and writes it to the
5 spare storage disc. The reference numerals 158 to 168
designate a group of data discs for storing therein the
striped data. Although the six discs are shown as the
data discs in Fig. 2, the number thereof is generally
arbitrary. The reference numerals 170 and 172 designate
10 discs which store therein the ECC data corresponding to
the striped six data which is stored in the discs 158 to
168. When the failure occurs, the faulty data is
reconstructed using the ECC data and the normal data
among the data 158 to 168. In this connection, the
15 redundancy which the memory has corresponds to the
number of ECC discs with respect to the number of discs
up to a certain number. But, in the case where the
discs break down of which number is more than that
certain number, it is impossible to reconstruct the
20 faulty data. This results in the data loss. Fig. 2
shows that even when the number of ECC data is two,
i.e., the two data discs break down, the faulty data can
be reconstructed. However, since there is generally
known the ECC production method which stands up to the
25 failure of two or more discs, the number of faulty discs
which does not result in the data loss, i.e., the
redundancy can be increased. The ECC production is
concretely realized using the Reed-Solomon Code. The

1 Reed-Solomon Code and the error correction method
employing the same themselves are well known. The
reference numerals 174 and 176 designate spare storage
units for storing therein the reconstructed data. Then,
5 in the case where the storage contents of the faulty
disc are stored in the spare storage unit, that spare
storage unit is accessed with the data stored therein
after the next time. The number of those discs is
generally arbitrary.

10 The description will now be given to the data
reconstructing table for the disc at fault.

The data reconstructing table 154 includes the
identification number of the spare storage disc (1), the
identification number of the disc at fault (2), the
15 point of failure (3), the sector or address of the
faulty data (4), and the flag used to judge whether or
not the failure is repairable (5).

Next, the operations of the memory of Fig. 2
and the table of Fig. 3 will be described on the basis
20 of a flow chart shown in Fig. 4.

First, in Fig. 2, it is assumed that the
failure occurs in the data disc unit 162 (Step 100).
Then, the circuit 156 for reconstructing faulty data
detects that failure to inform the I/O-reconstruction
25 control circuit 150 of that failure. After receiving
that information from the circuit 156, the circuit 150
checks whether or not an unoccupied space is present in
the data reconstructing table 154 by referring to the

1 table 154 (Step 102). Subsequently, the circuit 150
checks whether or not that failure is a failure which
occurred in a new disc (Step 104). If so, the circuit
150 instructs the circuit 156 to write the following
5 initial values to the columns of interest in the data
reconstructing table 154 of Fig. 3. That is, the
circuit 156 writes the identification number SPARE 1 of
the spare disc 174 to the column of the spare storage
unit in the data reconstructing table 154, and writes
10 the identification number #2 of the data disc 162 at
fault to the column of the storage unit at fault. Next,
the circuit 156 writes the point of failure read out
from the timer 152 to the column of the point of
failure, and writes the failure occurrence address in
15 the faulty disc 162 to the column of address. Finally,
the circuit 156 initializes the reconstruction judgement
flag of each address (Step 106). If that failure is not
a new one, the processing of Step 106 is not executed,
but the processing proceeds to the subsequent Step. In
20 the subsequent Step, the circuit 150 discriminates the
state of the failure, selects either the processing of
the normal access or read/write, or the data
reconstruction processing which is suitable for the
state of the failure, and executes the selected
25 processing (Step 108). The details of this Step 108
will be described on referring to Fig. 5 to Fig. 9.
Next, when the data reconstruction processing is
completed or interrupted, it is checked whether or not

1 the data reconstruction processing still remains (Step
110). When all of the data reconstruction processing is
completed, the memory returns to the normal state. When
the data reconstruction processing still remains, the
5 processing returns to Step 102, then, the above Steps
will be repeated until all of the data reconstruction
processing is completed. Even if any data reconstruc-
tion method is chosen, the circuit 156 monitors the
continuation or completion of the data reconstruction
- 10 processing. In the case where the subsequent failure
occurs when the data reconstruction of interest has not
yet been completed, the circuit 156 starts performing
the processing in the same manner as described above
(Step 102). Then, in the case where the number of
15 faulty discs of which data reconstruction is not
completed exceeds the redundancy of the memory, since
the data reconstruction is impossible, the circuit 150
informs the host unit of the data loss (Step 114). If
the data reconstruction processing is completed, the
20 unnecessary data in the data reconstructing table 154 is
erased and the memory returns to the normal state (Step
112). The address in the table 154 may have a track
unit, a sector unit, a word unit or any unit.

Next, the description will be given to Step
25 108 of Fig. 4 on referring to Fig. 5.

In Fig. 5, the I/O-reconstruction control
circuit 150 counts the number of discs of which data
reconstruction is not completed by referring to the data

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1 reconstructing table 154, and compares the number of
faulty discs with the threshold (Step 120). If the
number of faulty discs is less than the threshold which
is previously set to a value less than or equal to the
5 redundancy, the circuit 150 judges that there is a room
in the redundancy, gives the processing of access or
read/write preference and performs the processing of
reconstructing faulty data within the remaining period
of time. All of the processing such as access or
10 read/write during the reconstruction waits, i.e., it is
cancelled or queued (Step 122). On the other hand, if
the number of faulty discs is more than the threshold,
the circuit 150 judges that the redundancy has no room,
gives the data reconstruction processing preference, and
15 cancels or queues all of the normal processing such as
access or read/write (Step 124).

The reconstruction is performed with a unit,
such as 1 track, in which the repair and the storage are
completed for a relatively short period of time. After
20 the completion of the reconstruction, the memory is
opened for the normal processing. But, when the
instruction of the processing of access or read/write is
issued from the host unit during the reconstruction, the
data reconstruction work is stopped immediately, and
25 then the memory is opened for the processing of access
or read/write. In the case where during the processing
of access or read/write, the data which has not yet been
reconstructed is read out, the faulty data is then

1 reconstructed using the ECC data and the normal data
which was used when producing the ECC data, and the
reconstructed data is sent to the host unit. At the
same time, the reconstructed data is stored in the spare
5 disc and the reconstruction judgement flag of the
address column of interest in the data reconstructing
table 154 is set to the completion of the reconstruc-
tion. If this flag is set to the completion of the
reconstruction, the subsequent access to this data is
10 performed with the spare disc. In the case of write of
data, after the ECC data has been produced, the data to
be stored in the faulty disc is stored in the spare
disc, and then the reconstruction judgement flag is set
to the completion of the reconstruction.

15 Since in the example of Fig. 2, the redundancy
is two, it is proper that the threshold is necessarily
set to 1. However, in the case where the Reed-Solomon
Code capable of correcting the multiplex dissipation
with two or more discs is used, the threshold may have
20 an arbitrary integral number less than or equal to the
redundancy. Those values are previously set in the
table 157.

Since the I/O-reconstruction control circuit
150 stores the address of the data which was re-
25 constructed at the last time, the data reconstruction is
performed from the subsequent address. In the reconstr-
uction, the address of the data which was reconstructed
at the last time and previously stored is used. Then,

1 when the flag is not set in the data reconstructing
table 154 and thus the data reconstruction is not
completed with respect to the subsequent address, the
data of that address is reconstructed. The reconstruc-
5 tion of the data is performed in such a way that the ECC
data and the normal data which was used to produce the
ECC data from the normal discs are read out and the
circuit 156 for reconstructing faulty data is used. The
reconstructed data is written to the spare disc and the
10 flag in the data reconstructing table 154 is set to the
completion of the data reconstruction. Then, the
reconstructed data in the spare disc will be accessed.
The address of the reconstructed data is stored in the
circuit 156, and the processing by the circuit 150
15 proceeds to the subsequent data reconstruction
processing.

In the embodiment of Fig. 5, when the number
of faulty discs is less than or equal to the threshold,
the processing of the normal access or read/write takes
20 precedence over the data reconstruction. Therefore, it
is possible to reduce degradation of the performance of
access or read/write of the memory. Moreover, since in
a state in which the system devotes itself to the data
reconstruction, the reconstruction can be performed for
25 the short period of time, it is possible to maintain the
reliability of the memory.

In the above embodiments, the data reconstruc-
tion method is selected by paying attention to only the

1 number of faulty discs. However, the elapsed time taken
to reconstruct the faulty data can be, in addition to
the number of faulty discs, included in the conditions.

Next, the description will be given to Step
5 108 of Fig. 4 on referring to Fig. 6.

In Fig. 6, the I/O-reconstruction control circuit 150 counts the number of discs of which reconstruction is not yet completed by referring to the data reconstructing table 154, and compares the number 10 of faulty discs with the threshold (Step 130). If that number is less than or equal to the threshold, then, the circuit 150 reads the present time from the timer 152, and compares the time taken to reconstruct the faulty data, which can be calculated from the present time and 15 the point of failure in the data reconstructing table 154, with a predetermined limit time (Step 132). Then, if the reconstruction time is less than the predetermined limit time, it is considered that there is a room for the data reconstruction. Therefore, the circuit 150 20 instructs the circuit 156 for reconstructing faulty data to give the processing of the normal access or read/write preference, reconstruct the data in the faulty discs within the remaining period of time, and store the reconstructed data in the spare disc. The request to 25 perform the processing of access or read/write issued from the host unit during the reconstruction is cancelled or queued (Step 134). If the number of faulty discs is more than the threshold, or the difference

1 between the present time and the point of failure is
more than the predetermined limit time, it is considered
that there is no room for the data reconstruction.
Therefore, the circuit 150 cancels or queues the command
5 of the normal access or read/write issued from the host
unit and instructs the circuit 156 to give the data
reconstruction preference (Step 136).

In the embodiment of Fig. 6, when the time
taken to reconstruct the faulty data exceeds the limit
10 time, the system devotes itself to the processing of
reconstructing faulty data. Therefore, it is possible
to limit the reconstruction time within the fixed period
of time and improve the reliability of the memory.

Next, the description will be given to Step
15 108 of Fig. 4 on referring to Fig. 7.

In Fig. 7, the I/O-reconstruction control
circuit 150 obtains the present time from the timer 152
and judges whether or not that time is a time zone
having much processing of the normal access or read/
20 write (Step 140). If not, the circuit 150 cancels or
queues the command of the normal access or read/write
issued from the host unit, and instructs the circuit 156
for reconstructing faulty data to give the data re-
construction preference. Moreover, even if that time is
25 the time zone, when the number of faulty discs of Step
142 exceeds the threshold, similarly, the data re-
construction processing is given preference (Step 146).
Only when that time zone has much processing of the

1 normal access or read/write and the number of faulty
discs is less than or equal to the threshold, the
processing of the normal access or read/write is given
preference and the data reconstruction is performed for
5 the remaining period of time (Step 144).

In the embodiment of Fig. 7, when it is previously known that the method of using the memory depends on the time zone, the data reconstruction processing can be assigned to the time zone having less 10 processing of access or read/write. Therefore, the data reconstruction processing can be smoothly carried out without the processing of access or read/write hindering the data reconstruction processing.

In the above-mentioned embodiments of Fig. 5 15 to Fig. 7, there are provided two kinds of data reconstruction processing in which the reconstruction or the processing of access or read/write is given preference. However, the kind of data reconstruction processing may be increased in correspondence to the circumstances.

20 Next, the description will be given to Step 108 of Fig. 4 on referring to Fig. 8.

In Fig. 8, when the number of faulty discs exceeds the threshold in Step 180, the data reconstruction processing is given preference and the processing 25 of the normal access or read/write is stopped (Step 188). When the number of faulty discs is less than or equal to the threshold, and it is not the time zone having much processing of the normal access or

1 read/write in Step 182, only the read processing is
performed and the data reconstruction processing is
given preference for the remaining period of time (Step
186). When the number of faulty discs is less than or
5 equal to the threshold and it is the time zone having
much processing of the normal access or read/write, the
processing of the normal access or read/write is given
preference and the data reconstruction processing is
performed within the remaining period of time (Step
10 184).

In the embodiment of Fig. 8, when the number
of faulty discs is less than or equal to the threshold,
but it is the time zone having less processing of the
normal access or read/write, especially, the time zone
15 having only the read processing, the read processing is
exceptionally allowed to be performed, whereby it is
possible to reduce degradation of the performance of the
memory without hindering the data reconstruction
processing.

20 Next, the description will be given to Step
108 of Fig. 4 on referring to Fig. 9.

In Fig. 9, when the number of faulty discs
exceeds the threshold in Step 190, or the number of
faulty discs is less than or equal to the threshold in
25 Step 190 and the accumulating totals of the data
reconstruction time exceeds the limit time in Step 192,
the data reconstruction processing is given preference
and the processing of the normal access or read/write is

1 stopped (Step 202). When the number of faulty discs is
less than or equal to the threshold and the accumulating
totals of the data reconstruction time is less than the
limit time, the I/O-reconstruction control circuit 150
5 reads the unit time from the timer 152, and compares the
frequency of the processing of the normal access or
read/write within that unit time with the predetermined
threshold (Step 194). When the frequency of the
processing of the normal access or read/write is more
10 than the threshold, it is considered that the accumu-
lation is within the limit time and there is a room for
the data reconstruction. Therefore, the processing of
the normal access or read/write is given preference and
the data reconstruction processing is performed within
15 the remaining period of time (Step 196). On the other
hand, when the frequency of the processing of the normal
access or read/write is less than the threshold, and the
frequency thereof is limitlessly near or far from the
threshold, the frequency changes in magnitude. There-
fore, the frequency of the data reconstruction proces-
sing or the ratio of the amount of data reconstruction
within the unit time is dynamically set according to the
magnitude of the frequency of the processing of the
normal access or read/write (Step 198). Then, the data
25 reconstruction processing is carried out according to
the frequency of the data reconstruction processing or
the ratio of the amount of the data reconstruction thus
set (Step 200).

1 In the embodiment of Fig. 9, the frequency of
the data reconstruction processing or the ratio of the
amount of the data reconstruction is set according to
the magnitude of the frequency of the processing of the
5 normal access or read/write. Therefore, the data re-
construction processing will be carried out effectively
in a time aspect.

Although the magnetic disc is given as the
storage unit in the above-mentioned embodiments, the
10 present invention is not limited thereto or thereby.
That is, alternatively, an optical disc, a floppy disc,
or a semiconductor memory may be used as the storage
unit.

Moreover, as the conditions for selecting the
15 data reconstruction method, instead of the above embodi-
ments, the job contents of the host unit, the signifi-
cance of the file in the memory, and the like may be
used as the conditions. The combination of those
conditions and the data reconstruction method allows the
20 flexible data reconstruction processing to be performed.

According to the above embodiments, when the
number of storage units at fault is less than the
redundancy of the memory, the processing of access or
read/write takes precedence over the data reconstruction
25 processing. Therefore, the load of the memory is not
increased so that it is possible to reduce degradation
of the response performance of the memory in the
processing of access or read/write to the utmost.

1 Moreover, since when a room of the redundancy becomes
small, the processing of access or read/write is
automatically stopped and the data reconstruction
processing is given preference, the reliability of the
5 memory is not reduced. Further, since the data reconstruc-
tion processing method is changed according to the
accumulating totals of the data reconstruction proces-
sing time of the storage units at fault, it is possible
to realize the memory of higher reliability. Moreover,
10 since the frequency of the data reconstruction proces-
sing or the ratio of the amount of the data reconstruc-
tion is set according to the magnitude of the frequency
of the processing of access or read/write, it is
possible to carry out the data reconstruction processing
15 effectively in a time aspect.

CLAIMS

1. A storage system comprising:
 - a plurality of data storage means including therein striped data arranged in parallel;
 - at least one error code storage means for storing therein error check data for the data stored in said plurality of data storage means;
 - at least one spare storage means for storing therein reconstructed data;
 - monitor means for monitoring a failure in said plurality of data storage means;
 - comparison means for comparing, when it is detected that a failure occurs in any of said plurality of data storage means, before the data is reconstructed on the basis of the data stored in the remaining data storage means and the data stored in said error code storage means, a value predetermined according to the number of said error code storage means, and the number of the data storage means at fault with each other; and
 - reconstruct means responsive to output of said comparison means for reconstructing the data based on the basis of the data stored in the remaining data storage means.
2. A storage system according to Claim 1, further comprising:
 - means for discriminating, when said monitor means detects a failure, the data storage means at fault

and judging whether or not the failure had already occurred in the data storage means at fault; and

decision means for determining that when a difference in said comparison means is large, access to said plurality of data storage means is given preference, and when the difference therein is small, the data is immediately reconstructed on the basis of the data in the remaining data storage means and the data in said error code storage means.

3. A storage system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

time of day means; and
a table for storing therein a number of the data storage means of which failure is discriminated, the point of failure, and a flag representing an address of the faulty data, together with a number of the spare storage means assigned for the data reconstruction.

4. A storage system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

time of day means;
means for judging whether or not the time when the failure occurred in any of said data storage means is within a predetermined access busy time zone; and
means for determining that when the result given by said judgement means is not within the predetermined access busy time zone, only the read access to said plurality of data storage means is given preference.

5. A storage system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

time of day means; and
means connected to said time of day means and
said monitor means for monitoring whether or not when
starting said plurality of data storage means, said
error code storage means and said spare storage means, a
starting voltage for said means is within a predeter-
mined range.

6. A storage system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

time of day means; and
check means connected to said time of day
means and said monitor means for sending a pseude-
instruction for reading out the data stored in a
predetermined location to said plurality of data storage
means, said error code storage means and said spare
storage means, thereby to check responses sent
therefrom.

7. A storage system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

time of day means; and
check means connected to said time of day
means and said monitor means for checking an error on
the basis of the data which is read out from said error
code storage means, when the data in said plurality of
data storage means is accessed.

8. A storage system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

time of day means; and
means for judging whether or not a period of time from the time when a failure occurs in any of said data storage means to the present time is within a predetermined limit time zone and making, when the period of time exceeds the limit time zone, the data reconstruction take precedence over the access to said data storage means.

9. A data reconstruction system for a memory comprising:

a group of storage units for striping data into plural data of bit unit, byte unit or arbitrary unit, the plural independent storage units forming a set;

discs for storing therein ECC data corresponding to the striped data;

a spare storage unit for storing therein reconstructed data;

an I/O-reconstruction control unit for receiving a command relating to I/O issued from a host unit to execute processing according to the command or respond to said host unit;

a data reconstructing table for the storage unit at fault;

a circuit for reconstructing faulty data which performs discovery of faulty storage unit, data

reconstruction, and write of the reconstructed data to said spare storage unit,

 said faulty data reconstructing circuit detecting, when a failure occurs in any of said storage units, the failure by an error check to inform said I/O-reconstruction control circuit of the failure occurrence, said I/O reconstruction control circuit discriminating a state of the failure; and

 judgement means for selecting preferred processing suitable for the state of the failure out of processing of access or read/write and data reconstruction processing, thereby to carry out the selected processing.

10. A data reconstruction system for a memory according to Claim 9, wherein said I/O-reconstruction control circuit sets the frequency of the processing of access or read/write and data reconstruction, or the ratio of the processing amount, in correspondence to the state of the failure.

11. A data reconstruction system for a memory according to Claim 9, further comprising:

 a timer for giving the point of failure, and the present time; and

 means for comparing the elapsed time during the restriction with a predetermined limit time to select the preferred processing operation.

12. A data reconstruction method used with a memory comprising the steps of:

performing access or read/write to or from data in parallel which is stored in storage units by striping data into the plural data of bit unit, byte unit or arbitrary unit, with the plural independent storage units as a set, and performing an error check during the access or read/write to or from the data;

detecting, when a failure occurs, the storage unit at fault by the error check, and reconstructing data stored in the storage unit at fault as long as the number of storage units at fault is within a predetermined value, while performing the processing of the normal access or read/write;

storing the reconstructed data in a spare storage unit; and

determining that either the processing of the normal access or read/write, or the data reconstruction processing is given preference in correspondence to a state of the failure.

13. A data reconstruction method used with a memory according to Claim 12, further comprising the steps of:

judging whether or not the number of storage units of which failure is not yet completed exceeds the threshold; and

changing the priority of the processing of the normal access or read/write, or the data reconstruction processing.

14. A data reconstruction method used with a memory according to Claim 12, wherein the priority of the processing of the normal access or read/write, or the data reconstruction processing is changed in accordance with the number of storage units of which failure is not yet reconstructed, and the reconstruction processing time of the storage units which broke down.

15. A data reconstruction method used with a memory according to Claim 12, wherein the priority of the processing of the normal access or read/write, or the data reconstruction processing is changed in accordance with the number of storage units of which failure is not yet reconstructed, and the time zone when the processing of the normal access or read/write is performed.

16. A data reconstruction method used with a memory according to Claim 12, wherein the priority of the processing of access or read/write, or the data reconstruction processing is changed in accordance with the number of storage units of which failure is not yet reconstructed, the accumulating totals of the reconstruction processing time of the storage units which broke down, and the frequency of the processing of access or read/write within a unit time.

17. A data reconstruction method used with a memory according to Claim 16, wherein when the frequency of the processing of access or read/write within a unit time is less than the threshold, the frequency of the

data reconstruction processing within the unit time or the ratio of the amount of data reconstruction processing is dynamically set in accordance to the frequency of the processing of access or read/write within the unit time.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A storage data reconstruction system including: a plurality of storage units for storing therein striped data, the plural independent storage units forming a set; discs for storing therein ECC data corresponding to the striped data; a spare storage unit for storing therein the reconstructed data; an I/O-reconstruction control circuit; a timer; a data reconstructing table for the storage unit at fault; and a circuit for reconstructing faulty data. When a failure occurs in any of the storage units, the failure is detected by an error check, a state of the failure is discriminated, the preferred processing suitable for the state of the failure is selected out of processing of the normal access or read/write, and data reconstruction processing to carry out the selected processing, or the frequency of the processing of the normal access or read/write and the data reconstruction processing, or the ratio of the processing amount is set. The time taken to reconstruct the faulty data does not exceed a fixed period of time.

FIG. 1

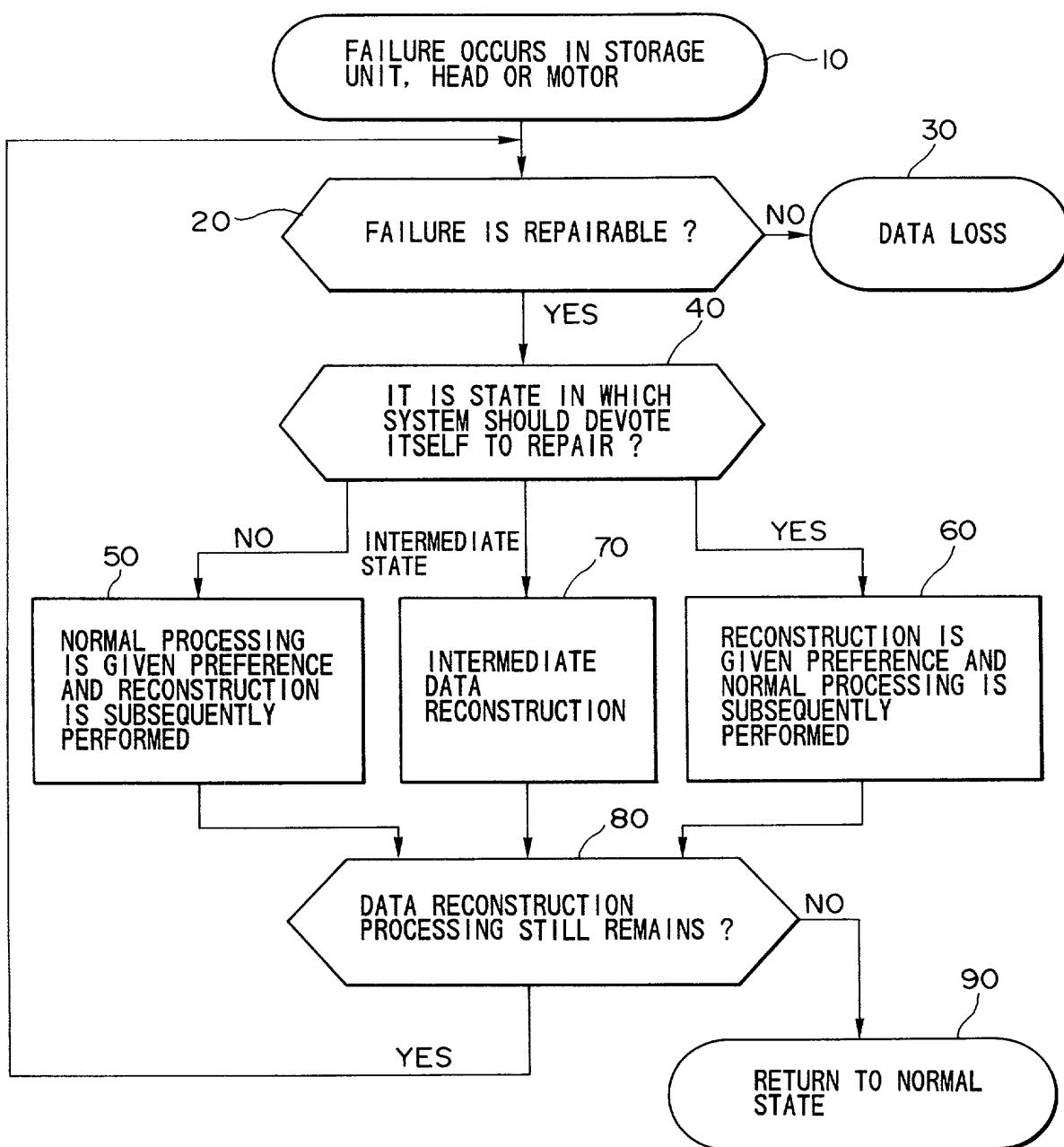


FIG.2

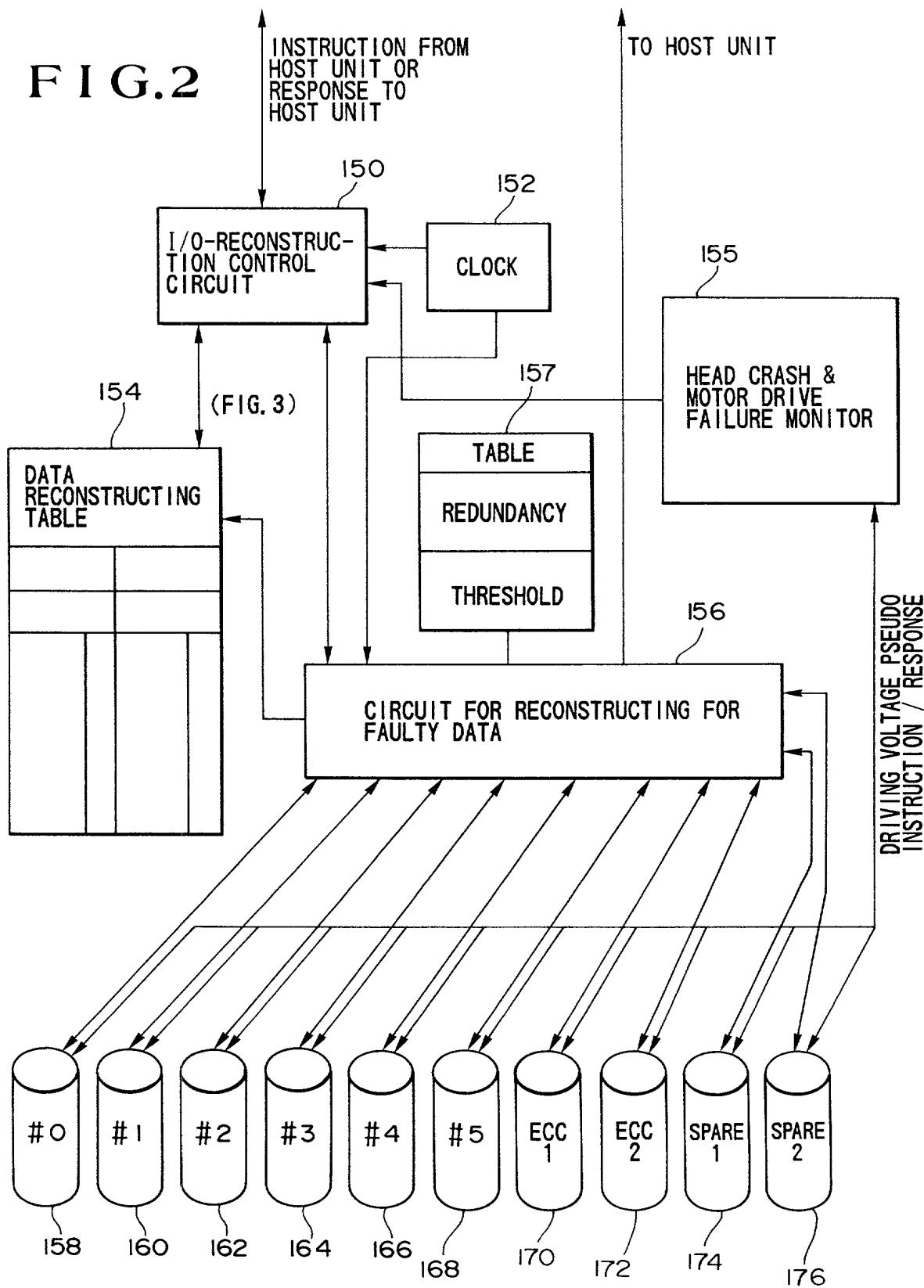
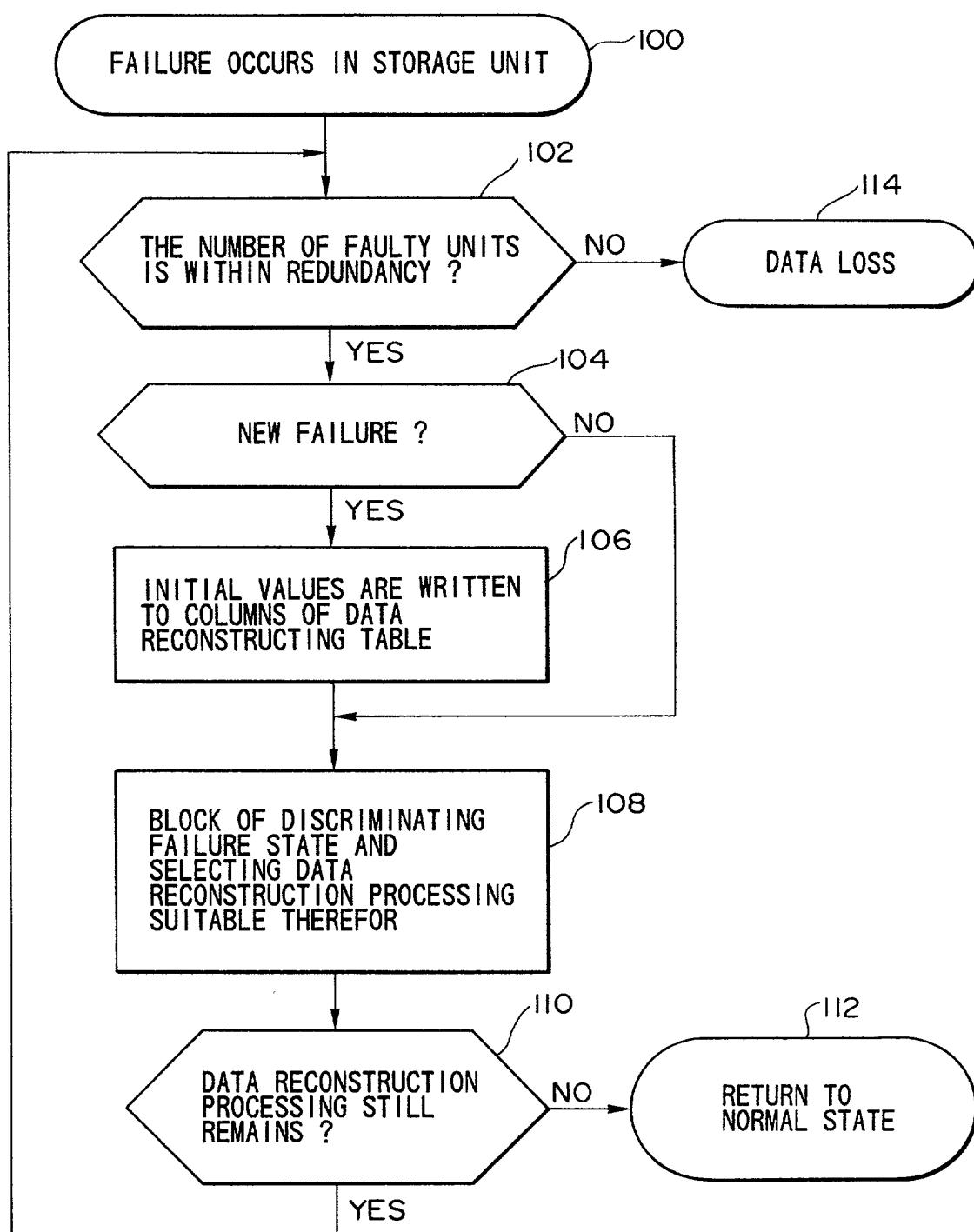


FIG.3

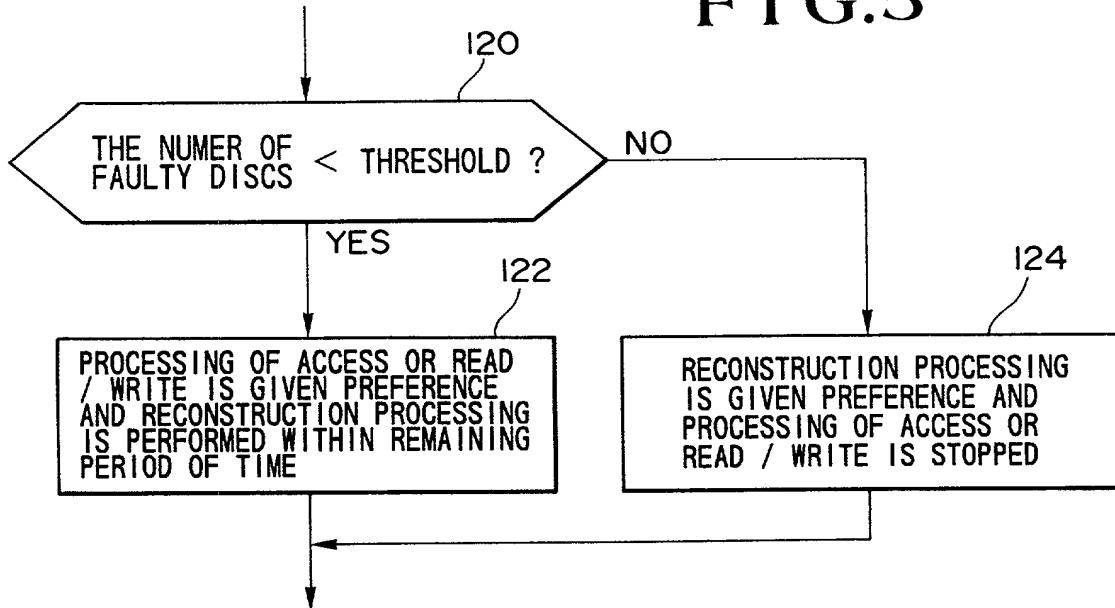
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DATA RECONSTRUCTING TABLE				
1	SPARE STORAGE UNIT SPARE 1	SPARE STORAGE UNIT SPARE 2		
2	STORAGE UNIT AT FAILURE #2	STORAGE UNIT AT FAILURE #4		
3	POINT OF FAILURE		POINT OF FAILURE	
4	FAILURE SECTOR OR ADDRESS	RECONSTRU- CTION JUDGEMENT FLAG	FAILURE SECTOR OR ADDRESS	RECONSTRU- CTION JUDGEMENT FLAG
0000	I	0000	I	
0001	I	0001	I	
0010	I	0010	O	
FFFF	O	FFFF	O	

F I G.4



F I G.5



2016/09/20 14:47:50

F I G.6

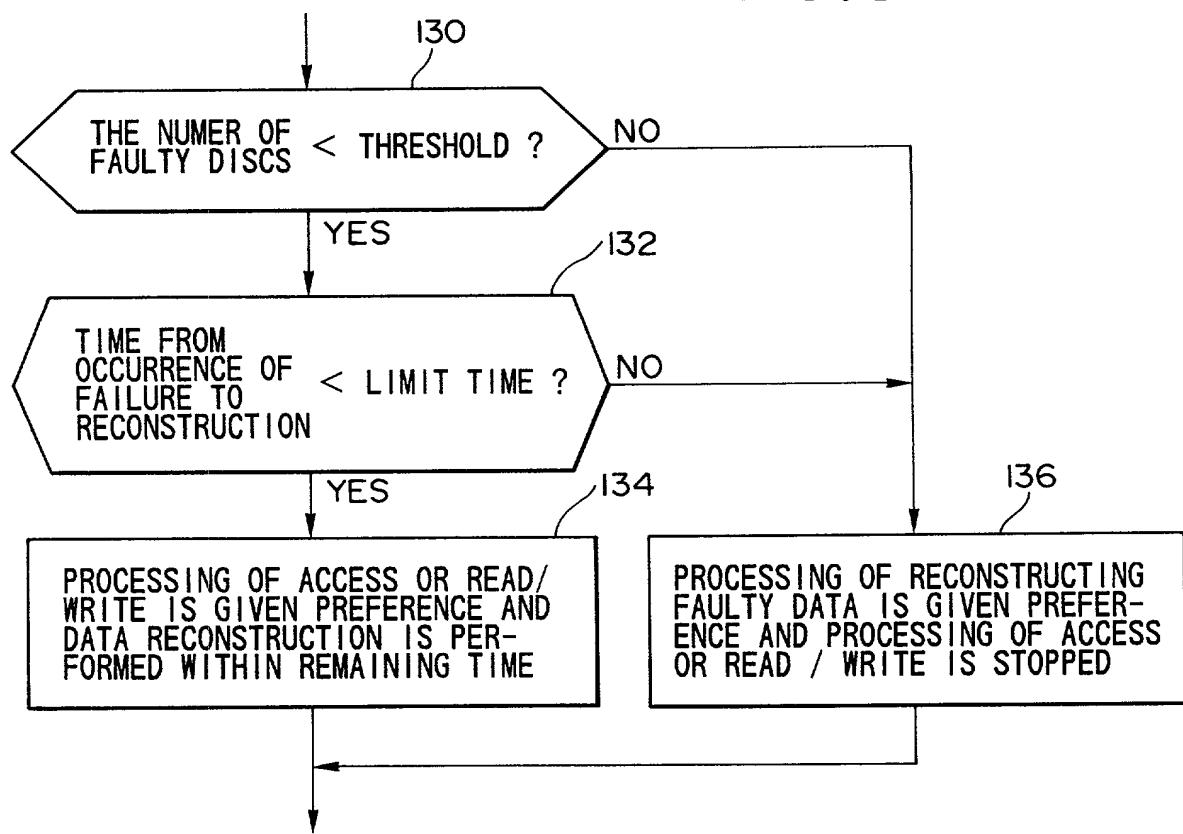


FIG.7

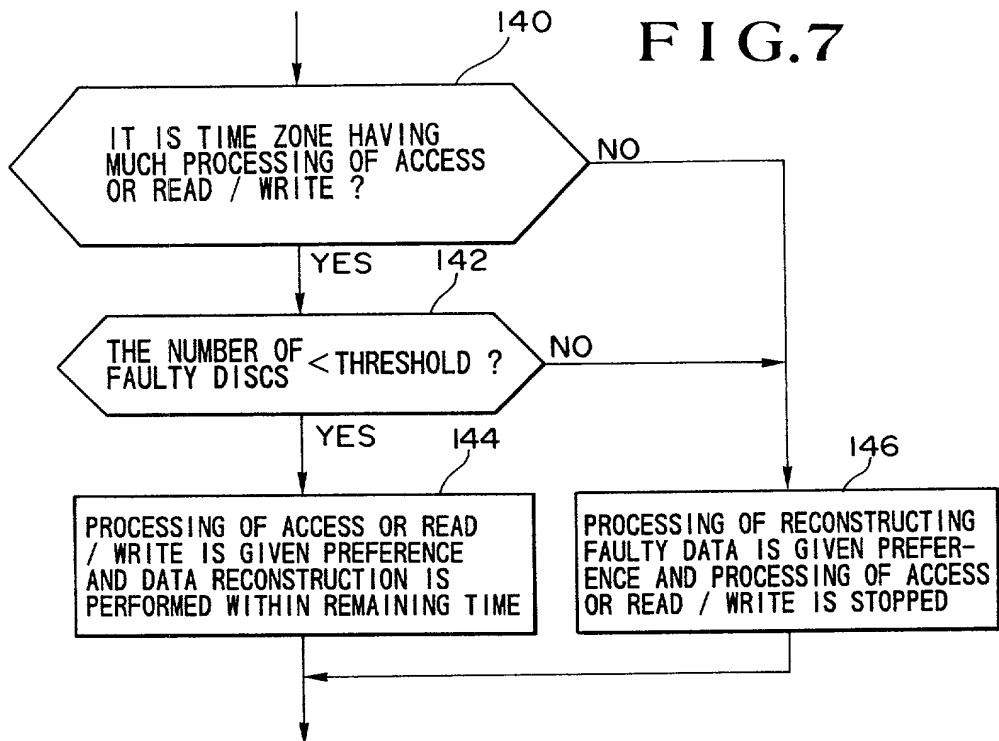


FIG.8

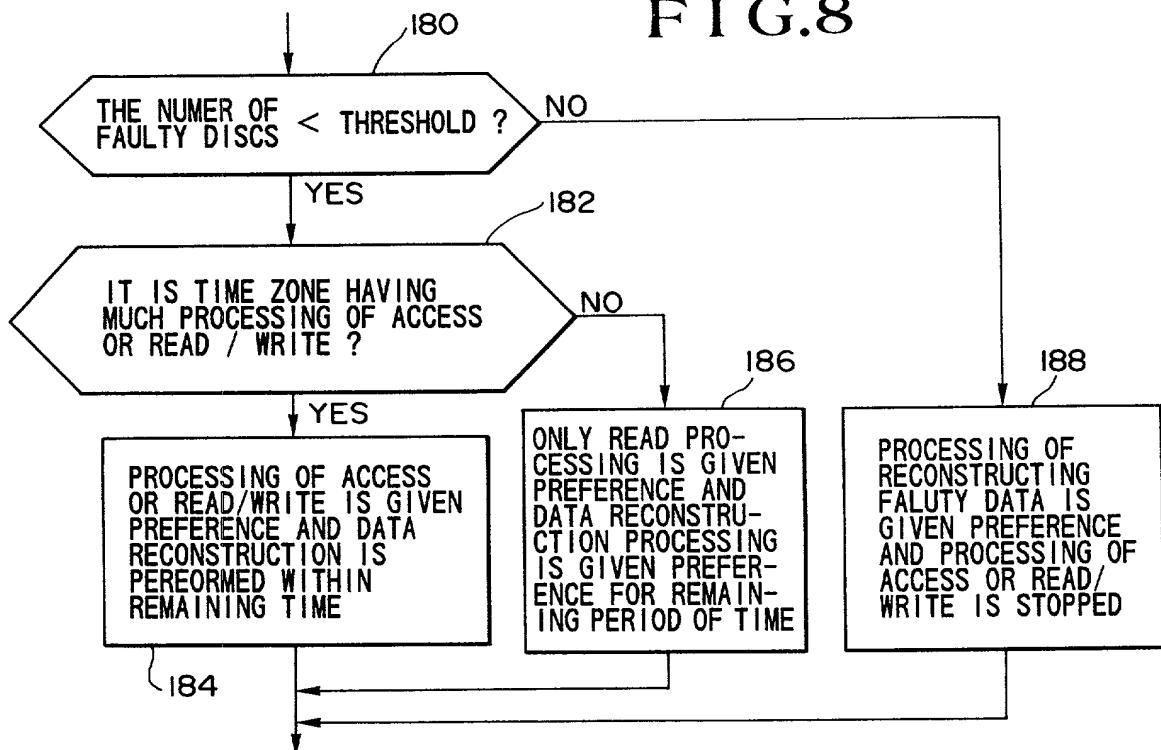
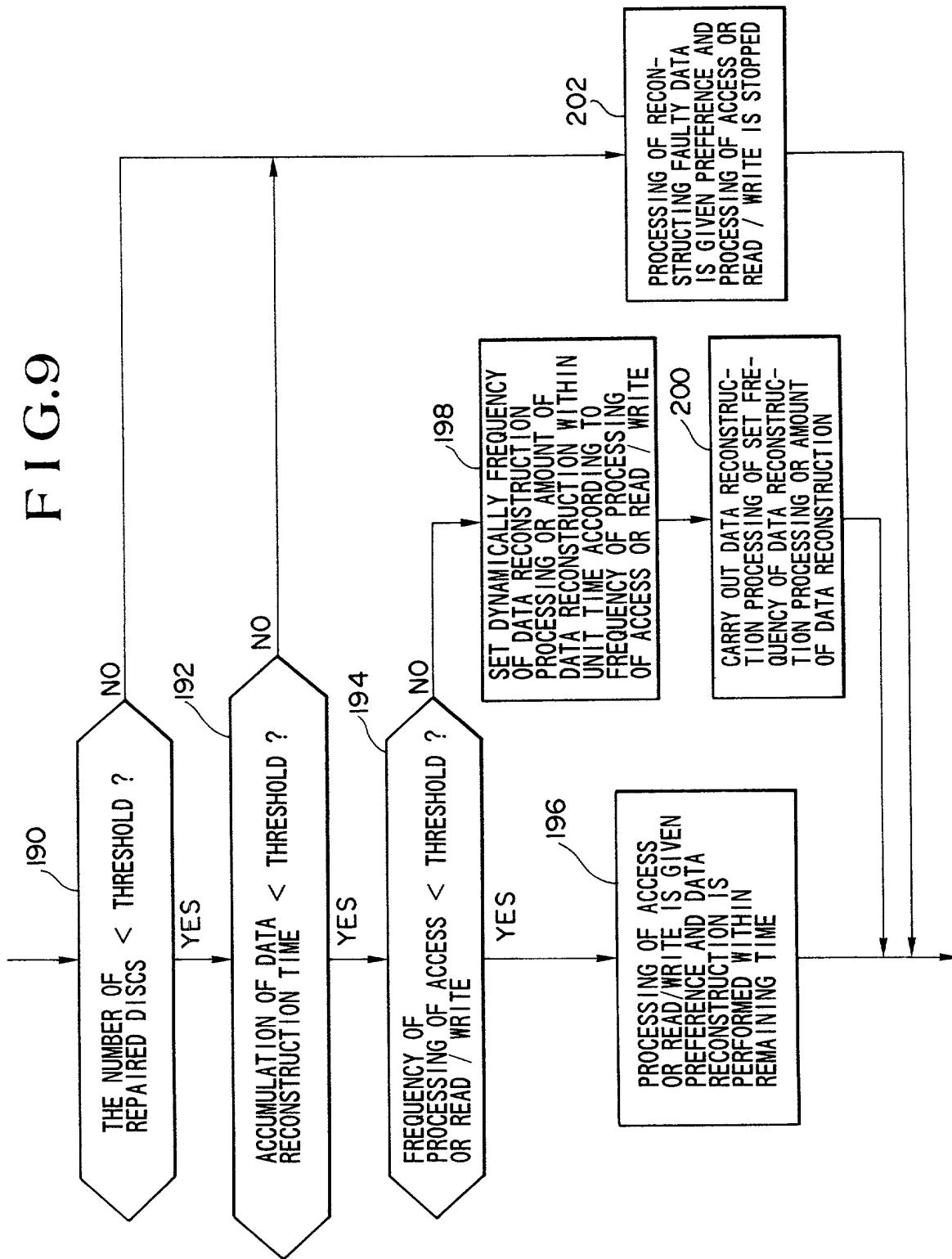


FIG.9



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COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

(宣誓書及び委任状)

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name, I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

"DATA RECONSTRUCTION METHOD AND SYSTEM EMPLOYING THE SAME"

the specification of which: (check one) is attached hereto.

was filed on _____
 as Application Serial No. _____
 and was amended on _____
 (if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended, by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me which is material to patentability in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America filed by me on the same subject matter having a filing date earlier than that of the application(s) on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s)		Priority Claimed
03-094728 (Number)	Japan (Country)	1 April, 1991 (Day/Month/Year Filed) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
_____ (Number)	_____ (Country)	_____ (Day/Month/Year Filed) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
_____ (Number)	_____ (Country)	_____ (Day/Month/Year Filed) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, 120 of any United States application(s) or PCT international application(s) designating the United States of America that is/are listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in that/those prior application(s) in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

(Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)	(Status) (patented, pending, abandoned)
(Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)	(Status) (patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby appoint as principal attorneys; Donald R. Antonelli, Reg. No. 20,296; David T. Terry, Reg. No. 20,178; Melvin Kraus, Reg. No. 22,466; Stanley A. Wal, Reg. No. 26,432; William I. Solomon, Reg. No. 28,565; Gregory E. Montone, Reg. No. 28,141; Ronald J. Shore, Reg. No. 28,577; Donald E. Stout, Reg. No. 26,422; Alan E. Schiavelli, Reg. No. 32,087 and James N. Dresser, Reg. No. 22,973 to prosecute and transact all business connected with this application and any related United States application and international applications. Please direct all communications to the following address:

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further, that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

宣誓日

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